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**South Berks
Joint Public Health Committee**

ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



for the year 1952



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for the year 1952

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH BERKS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1952.

The work with which this report is mainly concerned was carried out before I took up my duties as your Medical Officer in February 1953, and it is therefore with some diffidence that I present it.

During 1952 the post of Medical Officer of Health remained vacant, and I feel that the Committee would like me to take this opportunity of expressing its appreciation to Dr. E. C. H. Huddy, County Medical Officer of Health, and his deputy, Dr. T. T. Baird, for all the work they carried out for the "South Berks Districts" during this period.

My thanks are due to the Sanitary Inspectors of the four districts for their help and ready co-operation in submitting information essential to this report.

The report is addressed to the members of the South Berks Joint Public Health Committee, which only came into being on 9th September 1952. The composition of this committee is similar to that of its predecessor The South Berks United Sanitary Districts Committee, save that, in addition, the Berkshire County Council is represented by three members.

Since I was not familiar with the events which affected the health of the area during 1952, I have omitted any general comment in this introduction, but have confined myself to remarks in the text when this seemed appropriate.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. F. BARCLAY,
Medical Officer of Health,
South Berks Joint Public Health Committee.

SOUTH BERKS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

1953 — 1954.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

- Newbury Borough** ... A. S. Kilburn, Esq.,
32, Wendan Road, Newbury.
Alderman C. W. Burns (Chairman),
10, Buckingham Road, Newbury.
M. W. Paine, Esq.,
44, Howard Road, Newbury.
- Bradfield R.D.** ... Mrs. M. P. Showers (Vice-Chairman),
High Wood, Burghfield Common.
A. H. Wyatt, Esq.,
The Garage, Yattendon.
I. A. Clark, Esq.,
Quicks Green, Ashampstead.
A. W. Millson, Esq.,
Cravendene, Briff Lane, Bucklebury.
- Hungerford R.D.** ... Miss C. C. Carden,
Inholmes Lodge, Woodland St. Mary.
H. J. Bushnell, Esq.,
3, High Street, Hungerford.
- Newbury R.D.** ... A. R. Brown, Esq., J.P.,
20, Park Lane, Thatcham.
Mrs. A. M. Macdonnell,
Northway Cottage, Cold Ash.
- Berkshire County Council**
P. C. Andrews, Esq.,
St. John's Vicarage, Newbury.
Colonel H. G. Peake,
Parsonage House, Hampstead Norris.
G. H. Wood, Esq.,
Beacon View, Tydehams, Newbury.

Clerk: L. Southern, Esq., LL.B., Municipal Buildings, Newbury.

SOUTH BERKS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. F. Barclay, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (appointed November, 1952),
Public Health Office, Greenham House, Newbury.

Telephone: Newbury 1144.

Newbury Borough ... J. Hague, F.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector,
16, Market Place, Newbury.
(Telephone 446).

G. J. Wickens, M.S.I.A., Add. Sanitary Inspector,

Bradfield R.D. ... T. H. Windle, A.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector,
26, Bath Road, Reading.
(Telephone 2293).

D. C. Smith, Sanitary Inspector's Assistant.

Hungerford R.D. ... F. H. Obrey, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., L.F.S.(Eng.),
Sanitary Inspector,
128, High Street, Hungerford.
(Telephone 29).

J. E. Edwards, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Newbury R.D. ... C. J. Cooke, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector,
Phoenix House, Bartholomew Street,
Newbury. (Telephone 1187).

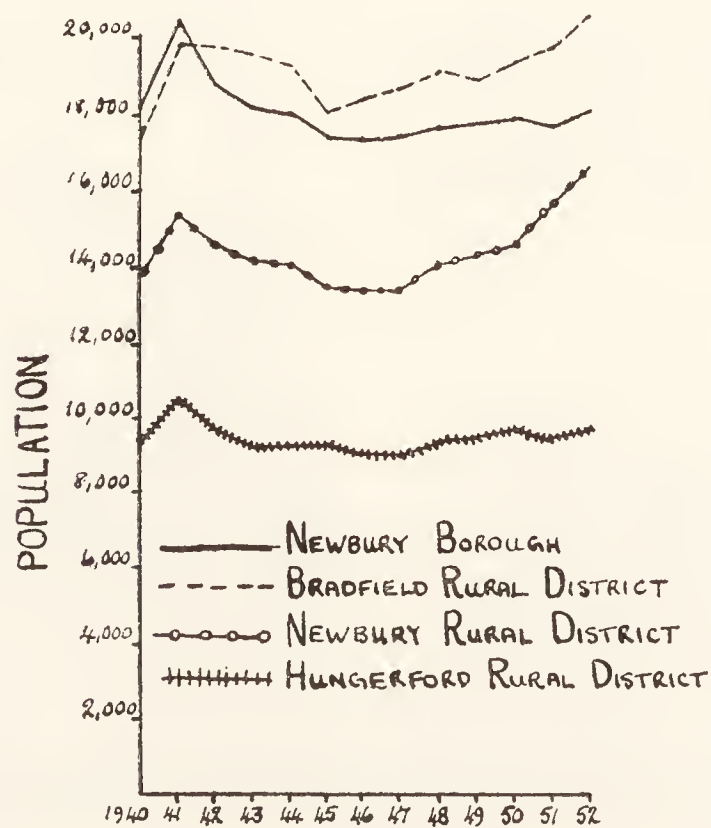
A. R. Morgan, Additional Sanitary Inspector.

AREA AND POPULATION.

The following table shows the area of each district, with estimated population at the middle of 1952.

District	Area in Acres (Land and Inland Water)		Persons per Acre
		Estimated Population	
Newbury Borough ...	2,612	18,030	6.9
Bradfield Rural ...	53,008	20,420	0.38
Hungerford Rural ...	44,817	9,650	0.21
Newbury Rural ...	41,660	16,510	0.39
Totals ...	142,097	64,610	0.45

**GRAPH SHOWING POPULATION IN EACH DISTRICT
SINCE 1940.**



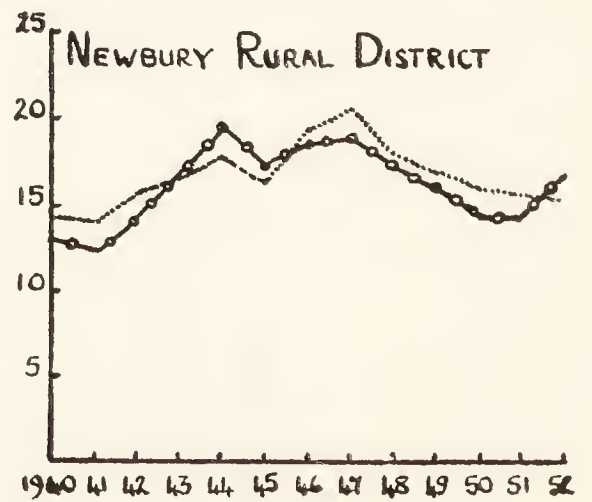
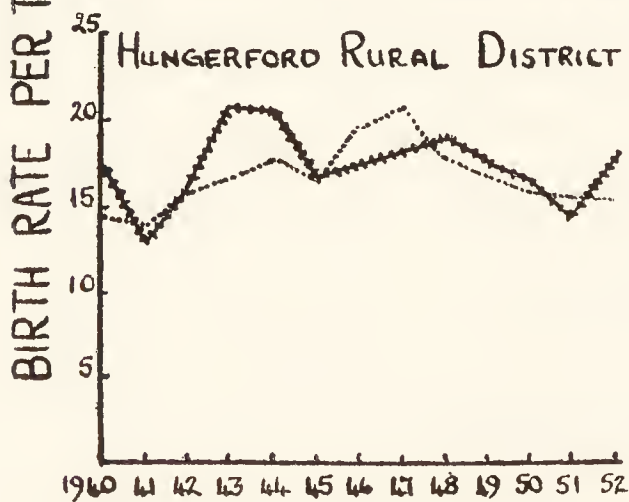
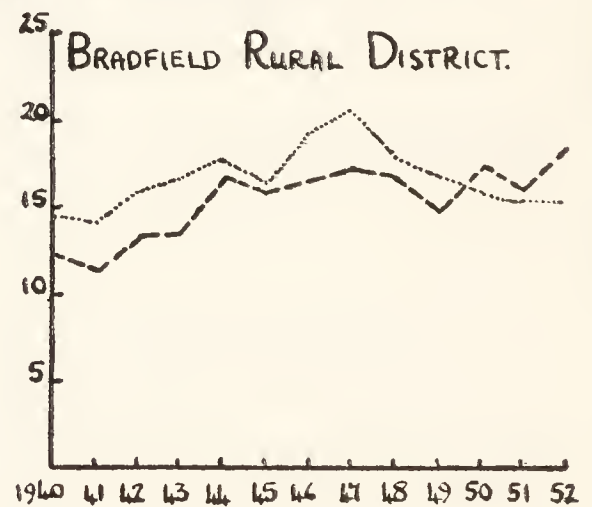
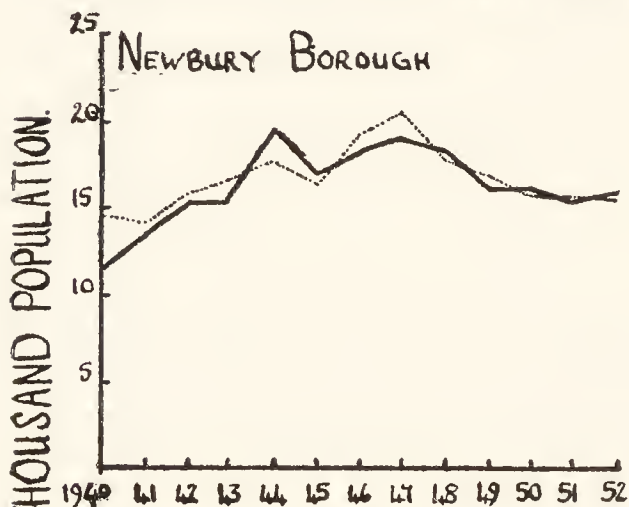
BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The following table gives the Birth and Death Rate per 1,000 population and the Infant Mortality, and Illegitimate births, per 1,000 live births.

District	Birth-rate per 1,000 population	Death-rate per 1,000 population	Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births	Illegitimate birth rate per 1,000 live births
Newbury Borough	15.9	11.2	27.7	72.9
Bradfield Rural	18.3	11.5	15.9	53.2
Hungerford Rural	17.9	10.5	11.5	57.8
Newbury Rural	16.6	9.6	14.5	94.5
United Districts	17.2	10.7	17.4	69.2
England and Wales	15.3	11.3	27.6	—

In addition to the births accounted for above there were 18 still-births.

GRAPHS SHOWING THE ANNUAL BIRTH RATES IN EACH DISTRICT SINCE 1940



..... England and Wales Birth Rate.

All the above graphs show to some extent a post-war rise in the number of births. This reflects the general trend throughout the country during these years.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

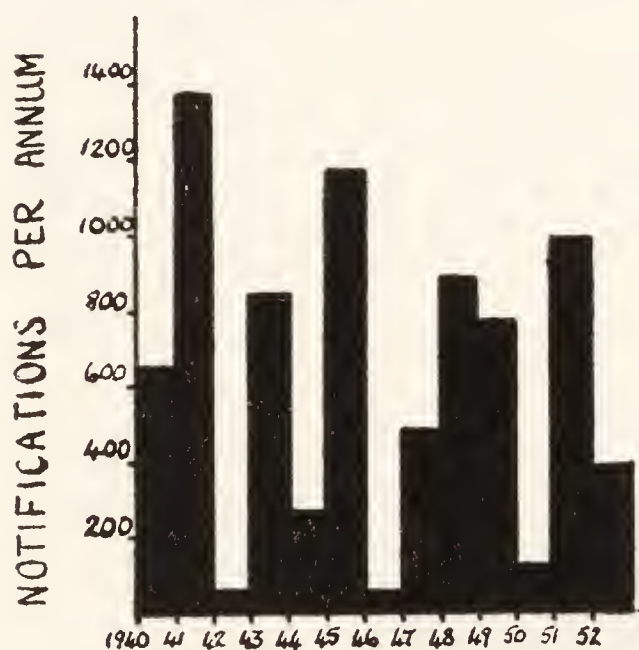
The Registrar General returns one case of maternal mortality for 1952. This death occurred more than one year following pregnancy, and was due to cerebral haemorrhage.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

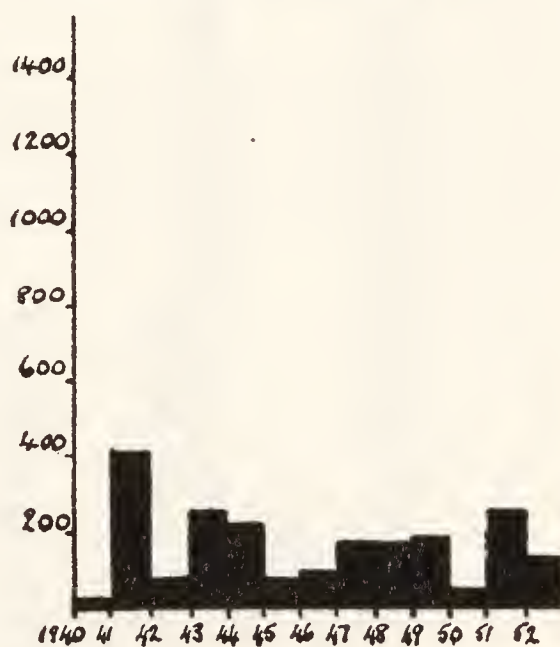
The following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease notified in each district during 1952.

Disease	Newbury Borough	Bradfield Rural	Hunger- ford Rural	Newbury Rural	Total All Areas
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	8	27	6	4	45
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (Includ- ing Paratyphoid ...)	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	2	1	3
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	1	—	1	2
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	1	—	—	—	1
Dysentery ...	2	51	3	2	58
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	6	84	—	2	92
Measles ...	171	81	3	132	387
Whooping Cough ...	57	32	19	35	143
Food Poisoning ...	—	2	—	—	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	10	10	10	12	42
Others Forms of Tuberculosis ...	3	2	1	1	7

MEASLES.



WHOOPING COUGH.



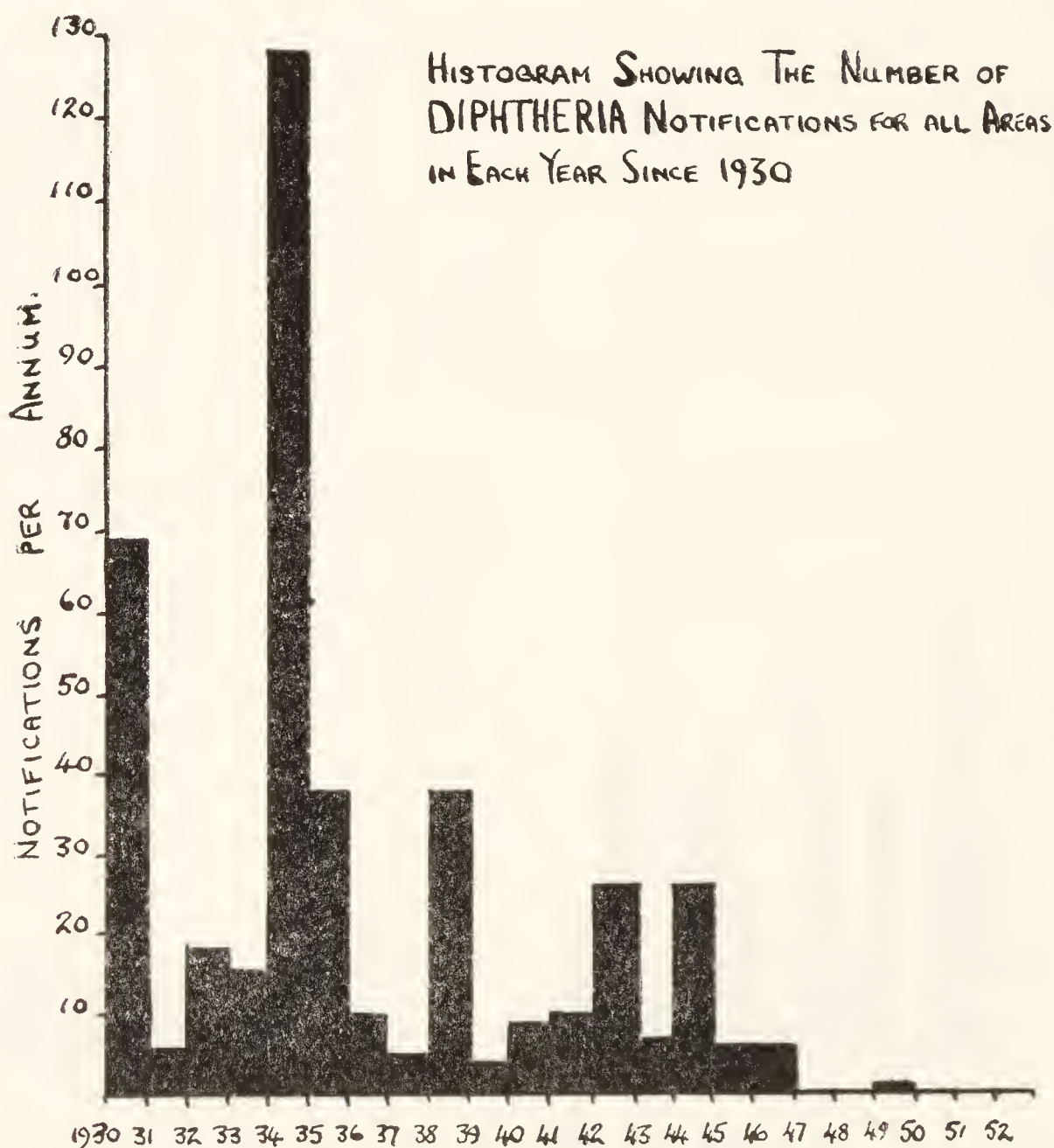
The customary finding that Measles epidemics usually occur every other year is quite well shown in one of the above histograms. That for Whooping Cough, drawn to the same scale, serves to show the incidence of this disease compared with that of Measles.

The rather large number of dysentery notifications for Bradfield Rural District, is due to an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery which occurred during 1952 at Sunnyside Camp, Theale.

Towards the end of March, 1952, the local general practitioner notified six cases of Sonne Dysentery at this camp. These cases involved four families and five of them were children. Owing to the nature of the camp and the fact that two of the local schools were involved it was decided to take drastic action to prevent the possible spread outside the camp.

The outbreak, which lasted for the next two months, was limited to 12 families, but the incidence rate within the families was high. 42 positive cases were found and a total of 245 specimens was collected by the Sanitary Inspector and examined in the Public Health Laboratory.

The last two cases were reported to be negative in the middle of June, 1952, and thanks to the co-operation of the local general practitioner, the Sanitary Inspector's Department and the local Public Health Laboratory we felt that we had been successful in our object of limiting this outbreak and preventing its spread.



The above histogram for Diphtheria shows well the declining incidence of this disease in the areas during the past few years.

There have been no cases of diphtheria in the South Berks Districts since 1949. It is to be hoped that this state of affairs will be maintained, but it will not be, unless a high percentage of the population has been immunised against the disease. Parents are strongly advised to have their children immunised during the first year of life, and to have this immunity maintained by at least one booster dose at about the age of five years.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.
 Number of children Immunised against Diphtheria.

District	1950		1951		1952	
	Under 5	5 to 15	Under 5	5 to 15	Under 5	5 to 15
Newbury Borough	103	9	267	27	223	53
Bradfield Rural	211	23	266	34	251	41
Hungerford Rural	82	1	78	1	60	3
Newbury Rural	134	3	168	4	154	5

VACCINATION.
 Number of children who were vaccinated when under one year of age.

			1949	1950	1951	1952
Newbury Borough	...	...	35	27	60	93
Bradfield R.D.C.	...	...	79	105	225	187
Hungerford R.D.C.	...	...	43	29	59	61
Newbury R.D.C.	...	...	46	46	118	119

The National Health Service Act of 1948 repealed the Vaccination Acts, which made vaccination compulsory. The number of vaccinations carried out fell considerably, but as the above figures show, there has been a steady improvement since 1949.

Outbreaks of Smallpox have occurred in this country during recent years, and if epidemics are to be avoided, it is essential that a high percentage of the population should have been immunised against the disease. The above figures must therefore be maintained and even improved upon. The best means of ensuring this high level of immunity is to see that vaccination is carried out in infancy.

TUBERCULOSIS (New Cases).

Year	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Totals
1947	75	21	96
1948	48	11	59
1949	79	7	86
1950	54	6	60
1951	54	15	69
1952	42	7	49

BOROUGH OF NEWBURY.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR.

Disease					Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	8	2	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...					—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	2	1	—
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	6	2	6
Measles	...	...	...	...	171	4	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	57	4	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		...	...	...	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	20	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	35	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	45	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	65	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
65 & upwards			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals			8	2	2	1	—	1	1	—

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Part I of the Act.

1.—INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	99	35	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	115	110	0	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ...	0	0	0	0
Total ...	214	145	0	0

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	2	—	—	—
Total ...	5	5	—	1	—

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

FOOD.

(a) Ice-Cream.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947-48.

ICE-CREAM SAMPLES.

Provisional Grade.	Number of Samples.	Per cent.
I	25	43.1
II	25	43.1
III	6	10.35
IV	2	3.45
VOID	11	—

Total number of samples = 69.

It will be noted that two of the sixty-nine samples taken, were placed in Provisional Grade 4. In these two instances "following" samples were obtained almost immediately after the receipt of the original report. The product from one producer was placed, in respect of this following sample, in Grade 1, showing some temporary defect to have been the cause of the original grading; in the case of the other supply, the first "following" sample was placed in Grade 3, the second in Grade 2, and the third in Grade 1, indicating a much deeper cause than in the former case.

In respect of this latter supply, the distributing firm was "reconstructed" during the year; extra plant was installed and more complete control was instituted. Later samples than those noted above showed that the improvement was maintained. Assistance to this end was rendered by the authorities of the district in which the ice-cream was manufactured.

When a series of samples was taken it was the practice to obtain one sample from the premises of the only firm within the Borough registered for the **manufacture** of ice-cream. On each occasion the report received indicated that that sample could be placed in Provisional Grade 1; an eminently satisfactory state of affairs, for a consistent result in that category in respect of nine samples is evidence of care in manufacture and storage.

The eleven samples which were "voided" were not examined at the laboratory: either, the atmospheric temperature, and/or the temperature of water supply used in the laboratory, was in excess of 65° F., a step which is in accordance with the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

(b) Milk.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

MILK SAMPLES.

Sample Procured for	Type of Milk	Total Samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Remarks
1. Examination for Tubercle Bacilli	Raw	51	51	—	—
2. Submission to Methylene Blue Test	T.T. Past	14 23	10 20	4 —	— 3 void
3. Submission to Phosphatase Test	Past	23	23	—	—

RETAIL PURVEYORS.

One dairy ceased to be used as such during the year, the present position, therefore, being that there are eight dairy premises and nine retail purveyors.

The fifty-one Biological samples submitted for examination were in respect of milk supplied to local retailers by twenty-eight producers. Ten of the producers' supplies were sampled on three occasions, three supplies twice, and fifteen supplies on one occasion. It was hoped to obtain four samples from each supply, but owing to the restriction in the number of guinea pigs available for the purpose of testing, that position was not reached.

The milk submitted for examination for the Phosphatase Test was obtained from the supplies of two pasteurising plants operating in the Borough and one similar plant processing milk in another district. It is the first time for many years that the whole of the samples taken for and submitted to this examination have all been satisfactory, and it shows that, in each case, the milk had been properly treated, bottled, and stored, prior to sampling.

The test now used to ascertain whether milk satisfies the prescribed keeping quality test (Methylene Blue) gives a general picture of keeping quality and its timing was framed to give an equivalent of reasonable conditions on the consumers' premises. The time lag between receipt of the sample at the laboratory and examination has been taken to approximate to the average time between sale by the retailer and use by the consumer.

It will be seen that, of the milk sold as Tuberculin Tested milk, fourteen samples were submitted to examination, and of these, ten were satisfactory and four unsatisfactory, the latter being from the supplies of four different producers. Information of the unsatisfactory report was forwarded to the appropriate Ministry, but it did appear from the investigation carried out locally that the age of the milk when delivered to the retailer could have been a factor.

The three void samples noted in respect of pasteurised milk submitted to the Methylene Blue Test were due to atmospheric conditions in association with the temperature of the water supply available at the laboratory.

Another point worthy of comment is that the whole of the milk retailed in the Borough is now delivered to the consumer in bottles. The transformation as compared with even five years ago, when approximately fifty per cent. of retailers were delivering at least fifty per cent. of their milk to customers by means of hand-measuring cans and open containers, will be appreciated. Whether this situation will remain static remains to be seen. The next step surely, is to deliver the milk in expendable containers, thus avoiding the possibility of contamination by insufficient washing of bottles, bad handling thereof and other adverse factors which affect bottles and their contents in progress from and to the dairy. Whether such an arrangement is economically possible is a matter with which this report is not concerned, but the value of such a container service will be appreciated when a study is made of the possibilities of error, both in the house and in the dairy, and in between.

One retailer is now obtaining the whole of his supply from the Milk Marketing Board with whom he has a contract for a sufficient quantity of bottled milk to supply his customers. This accounts for the reduction in the number of dairy premises in the Borough. The loss of one "hand-filling" dairy is to be commended as, in this instance, it is replaced by mechanical filling, with the elimination of at least one handling process, and therefore one possible point of contamination, between the supplier and the consumer.

At the beginning of the year milk from twelve producers, all having premises outside the Borough, was retailed raw, i.e., untreated; at the end there were eleven sources, five of which were from designated herds, the remaining six supplies being sold undesignated.

Sixteen licences, detailed hereunder, were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 . There was no change in this respect during the twelve months:

Dealer's Tuberculin Tested milk licences	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dealer's Pasteurised milk licences	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dealer's Accredited milk licences	...	...	...	...	...	2
Supplementary licences	...	...	...	...	...	1

(c) Meat Inspection.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
Number slaughtered ...	1710	605	1924	4395	2131	10765
Number inspected ...	1710	605	1924	4395	2131	10765
All diseases except Tuberculosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	7	57	20	39	126
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	565	350	16	906	456	2293
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	33.2	58.9	3.7	21.1	23.4	
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	6	3	2	—	19	30
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	146	115	—	—	53	314
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	8.8	19.5	0.20	—	3.57	

WEIGHTS OF CONDEMNED MEAT AND OFFAL.

Classification.	Tons.	Cwts.	Lbs.
(1) At slaughterhouses ...	21	17	47
(2) On Retailer's premises:			
(a) Home killed ...		15	98
(b) Imported ...			74
(3) Total Weight ...	22	13	107

There was a seventeen per cent. increase in the number of animals inspected and slaughtered as compared with 1951, and the number of carcasses inspected is again equalled by the number of animals slaughtered, i.e., a one hundred per cent. examination; a position which has been maintained over the past few years. The importance of this situation will be readily appreciated.

The tables call for further comment in respect of the quantity of meat condemned, both at the slaughterhouses and as to imported meat on retailers premises. In relation to the former, the reason for the reduction in the amount of meat and offal condemned at the slaughterhouses is

accounted for by an improvement in the quality of the animals slaughtered. It may be that, as consumers, most people would disagree, but nevertheless the statement is supported by the fact that the standard of inspection remains the same, and if the amount of meat and offal condemned shows such a big reduction, it is only reasonable to assert that the quality, i.e., age, breed and physical condition of the animals slaughtered has improved. The number of cows slaughtered shows a slight increase, but the age of the animals was mainly lower than has been the case for many years, and this is a contributory cause to the position outlined above. In relation to the imported meat condemned on retailers premises, this is a reflection on the small quantity of such meat on sale throughout the year.

Therefore, with a thirty-five per cent. reduction in the amount of meat and offal condemned at the slaughterhouses, and a reduction as noted in the imported meat, the total reduction is of the order of 33 per cent., in spite of a threefold increase in the amount of home killed meat condemned on retailers premises. A word or two about the latter will not be out of place. In order to eliminate such a possibility it would be necessary to carry out so detailed an inspection at the slaughterhouse that the value of the carcase would be materially reduced. The possibility of some unseen adverse condition remaining undetected therefore at the original inspection at the slaughterhouse will be appreciated.

The restriction in the transport of animals throughout the country due to foot-and-mouth disease upset normal distributive arrangements of live animals. As a result, Newbury slaughterhouses may have had more animals for slaughter than would perhaps otherwise have been the case had the restrictions on free movement not been imposed.

(d) Slaughtermen's Licences.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 and 1951.

Sixteen applications, either for renewal of existing licences or initial applications to the local authority for Slaughtermen's licences, were dealt with during the year and fourteen licences were granted. In the two cases where the applications were refused, the grounds for refusal were: that the applicant(s) were not employed in nor did they have any contact with the slaughterhouses, and were therefore unable to satisfy the terms of the Act in relation to their qualifications to hold a licence of this nature.

It will be recalled that the issue of a licence by one local authority makes that licence available in the area of other local authorities throughout the country, and it is therefore deemed wise to exercise considerable care in judging these applications to ensure that:

- (1) the applicant is generally suitable as to skill; and
- (2) as a result, cruelty to the animal during slaughter is reduced.

There was no appeal against the refusal by the authority to issue the two licences.

(e) Canned and other foods condemned.

WEIGHTS OF CANNED AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

		lbs.			lbs.
Canned Food	...	2922	Ice-cream	...	94
Fish	...	208	Cheese	...	8
Fruit	...	276	Canned Ham	...	1098
Eggs	...	43	Butter	...	12
Preserves	...	103	Miscellaneous	...	311
Bacon	...	189			

Total weight condemned = 2 tons, 7 cwts.

The total amount of canned and other foods condemned as unfit for human consumption increased slightly.

Ninety-four pounds of ice-cream were condemned owing to the fact that the electrical supply to the conservator was shut off, increasing the temperature of the conservator above the 28° F. which is the maximum temperature required by the Regulations for the storage of ice-cream. The result was that the ice-cream instead of being solid, was fluid.

It had been anticipated that the Ministry of Food would have dealt more satisfactorily with the position regarding imported canned hams, for that Ministry asserted that they had taken the matter up with the exporting countries in order that the latter could deal with and lay down standards for the processing and canning of ham for export. Unfortunately, the efforts of the various countries appear to have been only partially successful. The evidence is that in 1951, 1,392 lbs. of ham were condemned as being unfit, whilst in 1952, 1,089 lbs. were so dealt with. It will be seen that there has been some reduction but it has been comparatively slight—less than 25%—and the examinations indicate that the undesirable and inefficient have not yet been eliminated.

(f) Catering Premises.

A survey of catering premises was carried out during the year and the following report is compiled from information then obtained:—

Total number of caterers holding licences issued by the
Ministry of Food 101

Analysis of these Catering Premises.

(Designation for purposes of the report)	Type of trade carried on.	As at March 1949	Closed since 1949	New since 1949	As at Dec. 1952
1	Commercial				
	Large	9	—	—	9
2	Medium	10	—	—	10
3	Small	12	7	1	6
4	Industrial and Schools				
	Large	6	2	2	6
5	Medium	4	—	—	4
6	Small	5	—	2	7
7	Licensed Premises				
	All meals	7	1	—	6
8	Bed and breakfast and teas	6	—	2	8
9	Snacks only	8	—	10	18
10	Unlicensed hotels	3	—	—	3
11	Private lodgings	3	1	1	3
12	Club organisations	17	1	5	21
	Totals	90	12	23	101

Comments.

The chief improvements which have been carried out and developments which are to be put in hand in the near future at the premises included in the tables above, are:—

No. 1.

- (a) Removal of cafe to new premises.
- (b) Enlarged kitchens at two premises resulting in increased efficiency and cleanliness; and, in one instance, a dish-washing machine has been installed.
- (c) New food store and larger refrigerator.
- (d) Artificial ventilating system installed.
- (e) At another cafe proposals are in hand to provide a new and remodelled kitchen.

No. 2.

- (a) New managements at two premises have carried out substantial works.
- (b) Structural additions have increased the size of the kitchen, given more adequate working conditions, and, as a consequence, increased the efficiency of the equipment in another kitchen.
- (c) Re-arrangement of equipment in existing kitchen, together with the installation of a dish-washing machine, all resulting in a more suitable unit.
- (d) Staff cloakroom and welfare facilities.

No. 3.

- (a) One firm enlarged their premises.
- (b) One kitchen was re-arranged, both as to equipment and fittings.
- (c) Four of the seven premises now noted as being closed were those which were reported to be causing concern when the last report was submitted. In particular, one cafe then described as unsuitable for the purpose is now closed.

No. 4.

- (a) The most marked improvement in this section is in connection with the school canteens. Two new kitchens have been provided and the nett result is that, at the present time, the standard of both equipment and buildings at school canteens is comparable with that of industrial canteens catering for similar numbers. The most obvious draw-back in comparing the two types is that the latter have, in general, dish-washing machines provided whilst the former have not.
- (b) Two premises formerly used as school cooking centres, i.e., as parts of the school meals service, have now been closed. The premises were adapted from other uses and they suffered from the defects inherent in the change. The lay-out and facilities available gave little encouragement to the staff and closure was the only solution to the problems presented.
- (c) The food storage arrangements at one further school have been improved.

No. 5.

- (a) One private school has enlarged their kitchen.
- (b) Recommendations have been made which, if adopted, should result in the improvement of one of the smaller school kitchens and could save considerable expense. These recommendations are being pressed strongly.

No. 6.

- (a) At one factory proposals are in hand to construct a new kitchen.

No. 7.

- (a) At one establishment alterations are in progress, and at two others it is anticipated works of improvement will be commenced at an early date.

No. 8.

- (a) Improvement to the sanitary accommodation at five of these houses has been obtained.

No. 9.

- (a) In this class it will be noted that 50% of the catering licences have been issued since 1949. As a result of this prior knowledge of the proposed change, satisfactory standards of accommodation and facilities have been more readily obtainable as a prerequisite to the usual recommendation, i.e., "that no objection should be raised to the issue by the Ministry of Food of a catering licence".

In this class one objection to the issue of a licence has been made in the past year.

Nos. 10 & 11.

- (a) Satisfactory conditions have been maintained at these premises, the most unsuitable private lodging having closed.

No. 12.

Less attention has been given to this section as catering is restricted in nearly all cases to the preparation of sandwiches and beverages by some of the members for the remainder of the members of the respective organisations.

General.

The standard of cleanliness found shows an improvement over previous years in that opportunities for practising this virtue are becoming more readily available. A noticeable contributory factor in this connection is that greater attention has been paid by the occupiers to the more frequent cleaning of the walls and ceilings of the kitchens of these establishments.

Improvements to the cloakroom and washing facilities available to the staff remains a problem in some instances, and in this connection active steps are being taken to improve these conditions where possible.

It is not out of place to record that completed improvements and those promised for the near future have been secured in the past eighteen months in respect of approximately 20% of the premises denominated as catering premises.

This is a record of continuing activity to which the general public can make their own contribution by demands for improved standards of cleanliness in such matters as equipment and service, and in so many other obvious ways.

(g) Other food premises.

At one butcher's re-organisation was completed and resulted in the transformation of the shop from rather decrepit-looking premises to a satisfactory, clean and well-lighted shop with adequate cutting-up and storage accommodation.

At another shop the whole of the cutting-up room and part of the storage accommodation was re-organised and renovated.

In a third case improvement was effected by the exchange of business from one set of premises to another, both in the same tenancy. It was agreed that the shop used for the retail sale of meat was too small for its purpose, there being insufficient room for cutting-up, the hanging of meat and the serving of customers. On the other side of the street was a cooked meat shop owned by the same firm. At these premises accommodation was not so restricted as at the former shop and the exchange has resulted in a much more satisfactory state of affairs than was the case hitherto.

(h) Licensed Premises.

All premises coming under this definition have now been fitted with a supply of hot water over sinks fixed in or near the main bars. In some cases the hot water supply is constant, whilst in others it is provided by gas or electric heaters.

One licensed house was closed, and as a result, the improvements required in respect of sanitary accommodation were not carried out. The hope of the present owner of these premises is that they shall be turned into a milk bar, that is, one liquid to another, the value of each being a matter of personal taste.

Flushing cisterns have been provided to urinals at four licensed houses.

Housing.

HOUSING TABLE, 1952.

No. of New dwelling-houses built:—

(1)	by Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	*82
(2)	by Private Persons	...	...	...	...	...	24
(3)	by Ministry of Works	...	...	...	...	...	205

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	60
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	123
(2)		Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	36

2. Remedy of Defects during the year:—

(1)	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	36
-----	--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of statutory notices	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses included in Clearance Orders made by the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses included in Clearance Orders confirmed by the Ministry of Health	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(6)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of of Clearance Orders	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

4. Overcrowding:—

(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	2

Undertakings Given:—

Two houses, i.e., 1 and 2 Compton Place, being premises for which undertakings not to let for human habitation were in operation, were demolished by the owners during the year.

Of the houses in respect of which undertakings not to re-let were given in 1949, five were vacated during the year.

* Outside the Borough.

Re-housing Progress.

	10—13 Stroud Green	1—10 Chestnut Court	19—29 Old Newtown Road	1—6 Faircross Terrace	23—29 West Mills	1—8 New Square	Total
Total houses to be dealt with per Public Health Committee 1949 ...	4	10	6	6	7	8	41
Vacant at date of survey ...	1	—	—	1	—	2	4
Re-housed prior to 1952 ...	3	8	4	—	—	—	15
Re-housed during 1952 ...	—	1	1	3	—	—	5
Total vacated ...	4	9	5	4	—	2	24
Total number of tenants to be re-housed	—	1	1	2	7	6	17

The period during which the Corporation agreed to temporary houses situated on the Chandos Road—Charter Road estate being allowed to stand, expired during the year. A detailed survey of the houses was carried out and certain works which needed to be done were noted. The owner of the houses was interviewed and he agreed to carry out these works which, in the main, were defects due to errors of construction. The remedial works were completed before the end of the year.

In 1951 it was reported to the Public Health Committee that at each of the two houses in the same ownership, the main roof was defective. Statutory notices were served on the representative of the owner, but the specified works were not carried out. The Corporation applied to the Court for an order to carry out the works specified in the notices and this application was granted. The specified works were completed in the early part of the year.

The owners of a house were notified of the dirty condition of the premises and they decided to apply to the County Court for possession on the grounds that the house was dirty and verminous. The Court assented to the application, made the necessary order, and possession of the premises was obtained by the owners.

Schools and School Canteens.

Number of school canteens ...	6
Number of visits to school canteens ...	19
Number of canteens closed ...	—
Number of canteens at which works were required and/or carried out	1

The canteen at one school was re-arranged and redecorated.

As a consequence of the erection of the 200 houses by the Ministry of Supply, one additional temporary building was brought into use as an addition to a primary school. The premises being temporary in character, it is obvious that the standard required by the Ministry of Education cannot reasonably be requested, but consultation with the Education Department resulted in additional sanitary accommodation being provided for the use of the scholars.

At another primary school improvements, in the nature of additional

cleaning and decoration of the sanitary accommodation, were carried out.

A new primary school was brought into full use during the year. These premises, being modern in design and equipment, emphasise the facilities not available in other schools. In this new school, due attention had been given beforehand to ensure the adequacy of lighting, heating and sanitation facilities.

Shops Act, 1950.

Number of shops visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Number of shops at which works to comply with this Act were carried out:—							
e.g., Separate W.C. Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Washing facilities	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Heating facilities	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

	Type of Property.				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	21	5172	7	863	6065
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 ... (a) as a result of notification or (b) otherwise ...	(a) 3	180	1	30	214
3. Number of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats	(b) 18 Major — Minor 18	723 — 296	6 — —	422 — 20	1169 — 334
4. Number of properties (under 2) found to be infested by mice ...	1	97	—	14	112
5. Number of infested properties (under 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority ...	19	393	—	34	446
6. Number of notices served under Section 4:—					
(1) Treatment ...	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...					
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4 ...	—	—	—	—	—
8. Legal Proceedings ...	—	—	—	—	—
9. Number of "block" control schemes carried out ...				23	

The use of Warfarin became general, and this addition to those poisons approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries proved to be one of the biggest steps forward yet taken in dealing with rodents. Its value lies in two sources:—

- (1) A lessened need for labour in that, unlike other poisons, prebaiting is not required, and a consequent saving of time and poison is obtained.
- (2) Warfarin has the advantage that neither “poison prejudice” nor “bait shyness” is induced.

General Summary of Work carried out.

Number of different premises visited ...	...	...	...	...	1,605
„ Inspections made ...	...	...	...	...	5,759
„ Complaints received ...	...	...	...	...	134
„ Defects and nuisances discovered ...	...	...	...	...	426
„ Notices served (Informal) ...	...	...	...	...	217
„ (Statutory) ...	...	...	...	...	4
„ Prosecutions ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Defects or Nuisances abated:					
As to Privies, W.C's., sink wastes, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	40
„ Drains or Cesspools ...	...	...	...	...	50
„ Pigs or other animals ...	...	...	...	...	2
„ Deficient or impure water ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Unclean houses ...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Overcrowded houses ...	...	...	...	...	2
„ Polluted ditches, streams, etc. ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Insanitary accumulations or deposits ...	...	...	...	...	3
„ Other defects or nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	314
Number of premises disinfected ...	...	...	...	...	4
„ Water samples taken for analysis ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Wells closed ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Houses connected with water mains ...	...	...	...	...	Nil
* „ Seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food ...	...	...	...	...	190
Milkshops: Number on register ...	...	...	...	...	9

Cowsheds and Dairy farms	...	...	...	...	...	5
Slaughterhouses: Number on register	...	...	...	...	...	2
Milkshops: Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	176
Slaughterhouses: Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	930
Piggeries; Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	27
Total nuisances found	...	...	...	...	...	426
Total nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	400
Visits and re-inspections for purpose	...	...	...	...	...	1,179

* Not including condemnations at slaughterhouses

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

The above mentioned Act came into operation and two licences were issued; one in respect of a shop, and the other to the owner of a stall in the market.

Rag Flock Act, 1951.

Only one factory came within the definition of those required to be registered under the Act.

Public Health Act, 1936—Section 269.

Moveable Dwellings.

Six licences to station and use a caravan, each on a separate site, were in operation during 1952.

Caravans are being increasingly used as substitute housing permitting the separate accommodation of a family, with a consequent alleviation of the two families—one house question. The caravan as such should only be looked upon as temporary accommodation, but unfortunately, under present-day conditions, the temporary becomes semi-permanent.

NEWBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease					Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	4	1	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...					—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Measles	...	...	...	...	132	1	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	35	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			...	...	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	20	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	45	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	55	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards			2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals			4	8	—	1	1	1	—	—

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Part 1 of the Act.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	64	37	6	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	68	41	6	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	6	6	—	4	—

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

During the year 1952 the drive for more new houses was on. Owing to the limited resources of the building industry, large scale improvements to existing properties were not carried out, nor was the time ripe for the systematic demolition of worn out cottages.

WATER SUPPLIES.

General. There was no shortage of water for domestic use during the year.

Boxford Regionoal Water Scheme. This scheme which will serve Boxford, Welford, Weston, Stockcross, Winterbourne, Wickham Heath and Hoe Benham was nearing completion at the end of the year. The laying of the mains was completed and commencement of the scheme was held up due to delay in delivery of the new pumps.

Brimpton Common. An extension of the main to serve 14 properties was completed during the year.

WATER SAMPLES.

Forty-three samples for bacteriological examination were taken during the year. Twenty-two of the samples were unsatisfactory, in two cases main water was available to the property. Appropriate action is being taken in all cases where the sample proved unsatisfactory. Details are given in Appendix "A" to this report.

SEWERAGE.

Cold Ash. The Sewerage scheme to Cold Ash was again postponed for further consideration in 1953.

Woolhampton. A scheme for the village area was submitted to the Council by the Council's Consultant Engineer, and negotiations for the purpose of a disposal site were commenced, with a view to proceeding with this scheme.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

A weekly kerbside collection was in operation during the year. Owing to the construction of the Greenham Aerodrome it was necessary to discontinue the use of the tip on the Common. A refuse tip at Pound Lane, Thatcham, is now in use, where controlled tipping is carried out.

CAMPING SITES.

Owing to the construction of Greenham Aerodrome the demand for caravan sites was increased. Control of sites in the Greenham Area has proved difficult. The difficulties have been more from the Planning aspect than for Public Health reasons. Caravans are situated on 34 sites in the district. On the majority of these sites only one or two caravans are situated.

The largest site is situated at Thatcham and during the year the permitted number of caravans was increased to 70. Main drainage facilities are available to each caravan on this site for removal of waste water and communal blocks of W.C's. readily accessible to the caravans are in use. All sites in this district are residential sites occupied continually during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.

This is carried out in co-operation with Newbury Borough and Hungerford R.D.C.; work is co-ordinated by a Committee of the three Authorities.

HOUSING.

Council Houses. During the year 55 new Council Houses were erected. In December 1952, there were 477 applications outstanding for new Council Houses in the District.

Improvement to existing Council Houses including the provision of bathrooms and hot water systems were commenced during the year; work was completed to 18 houses by the end of the year. It is intended to continue this work in 1953 and it is hoped that all Council Houses will be brought up to standard within the next three years.

Private Houses. No systematic housing inspections were carried out during the year.

Twenty-four houses built under private licences were completed and occupied during the year.

WATER SAMPLES FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS.

Date.	Taken from	Result.
7 2 52	Hunts Green	Good
7 2 52	1, Egypt, Leckhampstead	Good
7 2 52	1, Pleasant View, Stockcross	Good
7 2 52	Thatched Cottage, Boxford	Good
11 3 52	Arlington Cottages, Snelsmore	Poor
11 3 52	Arlington Cottages, Alternate Supply	Poor
24 3 52	Box Hedge Cottage, Weston	Good
24 3 52	Marsh Cottage, Weston	Unsatisfactory
24 3 52	The Cricketers, Weston	Fair
26 5 52	Manor Farm, Oare	Unsatisfactory
26 5 52	1, Downend, Chieveley	Good
26 5 52	6, Southend, Cold Ash	Good
26 5 52	British Road Services, Colthrop	Good
26 5 52	British Road Services, Second Supply	Good
26 5 52	British Road Services, Third Supply	Good
16 6 52	Crookham Laundry, Crookham Common	Unsatisfactory
30 6 52	Burslott, Hoe Benham	Unsatisfactory
30 6 52	Campity Cottages, Midgham	Unsatisfactory
30 6 52	Kiln Farm, Oare (Reservoir)	Good
30 6 52	Kiln Farm, Oare (Standpipe)	Good
30 6 52	Kiln Farm, Oare (Pump)	Good
21 7 52	Brimpton Road, Midgham	Unsatisfactory
21 7 52	Campity Cottages, Midgham	Unsatisfactory
21 7 52	Benham Burslott	Unsatisfactory
21 7 52	Oare Farm	Fair
21 7 52	White House, Oare	Fair
21 7 52	Manor Farm, Oare	Fair
4 11 52	111 Marsh Benham	Unsatisfactory
4 11 52	91 Marsh Benham	Unsatisfactory
4 11 52	96 Marsh Benham	Poor
13 11 52	Brushwood, Crookham Common	Unsatisfactory
13 11 52	Brushwood, Crookham Common (Spring)	Unsatisfactory
4 11 52	Midgham Vicarage	Good
4 11 52	Midgham Vicarage (Supplementary Supply)	Good
4 11 52	Heath Cote, Vanners Lane	Unsatisfactory
13 10 52	Langhams, Bishops Green	Unsatisfactory
21 7 52	32, Bath Road, Midgham	Unsatisfactory
8 12 52	31 and 32 Midgham Marsh	Unsatisfactory
8 12 52	36 Midgham Marsh	Unsatisfactory
8 12 52	38 Midgham Marsh	Unsatisfactory
8 12 52	34 Midgham Marsh	Fair
8 12 52	39 Midgham Marsh	Fair
8 12 52	35 Midgham Marsh	Unsatisfactory

MILK SAMPLES FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Pasteurised Milk.

Date	Taken from	Dairy	Phosphatase	Methylene Blue
8.8.52	Cold Ash School	Harts Hill Dairy	6+ Units	Void
8.8.52	Thatcham County School	Reading Co-Op.	1.9 Units	Void
8.8.52	Thatcham (Park Lane) School	Harts Hill Dairy	1.4 Units	Void
8.8.52	Shaw-cum-Donnington School	M.M.B.	1.5 Units	Void
8.8.52	Curridge School	Heatherwold	1.5 Units	Void
8.8.52	Midgham School	S. G. Brown, Brimpton	1.4 Units	Void
8.8.52	Hermitage School	Valley Dairy Hermitage	1.4 Units	Void

Raw T.T.

8.8.52	Woolhampton School	R. M. Currie	No evidence of T.B. after six weeks.
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CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS.

Tinned Meat	29lbs.	10ozs.
	French Luncheon Meat			...	3lbs.	10ozs.		
	Boneless Cooked Ham			...	14lbs.	8ozs.		
	Tinned Ham	...	...	...	11lbs.	8ozs.		
Other Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	82lbs.	
	Beef	26lbs.						
	Bacon	56lbs.						
Tinned Fish — Salmon	...	...	...	...	...	...		7 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.
Tinned Fruit — Grapefruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	13lbs.	12ozs.
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	116lbs.	8ozs.
	Figs	115lbs.						
	Dates	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.						
Vegetables — New Potatoes	...	...	...	...	...	...		1 ton
Frozen Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	...		44lbs.
Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...		3 pints
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	...	...		1 packet.
Bisto	...	...	...	...	...	...		2 packets.
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	...		7 packets.
Ryvita	...	...	...	...	...	...		5 packets.
Spaghetti	...	...	...	...	...	...		1 packet.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT.

No. of Different premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	1430
„ „ Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	1562
„ „ Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	56
„ „ Defects or Nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	...	42
„ „ Notices served (a) Informal	...	...	...	...	...	29
„ „ (b) Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Prosecutions	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Number of defecets or nuisances abated:

Nuisances relating to Private W.Cs, Sink Wastes, etc.	...	...	...	...	11
„ „ „ Drains and Cesspools	...	...	...	...	7
„ „ „ Pigs or other animals	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ „ Cowsheds, Dairies, Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ „ Insufficient or impure Water Supply	...	...	...	...	7
„ „ „ Unclean houses	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ „ Overcrowded houses	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ „ Polluted ditches, water courses, etc.	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ „ Insanitary accommodations or deposits	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ Miscellaneous subjects	...	...	...	...	21
Total number of premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	12

Water: Water samples (a) Chemical Analysis	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Bacteriological Examination	...	...	...	...	43

No. of Wells closed	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ „ New wells sunk	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ New connections to water mains	...	...	...	...	...	33
„ „ Water certificates granted	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Conservancy closets replaced by W.Cs	...	...	...	...	...	46

Meat and Food:

Seizures or Surrenders of unsound or diseased foods	...	...	...	...	11
Total number of Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards on Reg.	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards visited	...	...	...	...	4

HUNGERFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease					Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	6	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	2	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	3	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	3	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	19	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	35	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	45	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals			4	6	—	1	—	—	—	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	7	5	—	—	—

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Part I of the Act.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	22	21	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	38	32	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	60	53	—	—

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

WATER.

The public water supplies serving this District are chlorinated at source and all samples taken from treated water proved satisfactory.

Of private supplies sampled 2 proved unsatisfactory, action was instituted for provision of wholesome supplies. A half-mile extension to the public main was laid to Radley Bottom at Hungerford Newtown as well as extensions on 2 Housing Sites.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

At **Kintbury** further conversions to waterborne drainage took place during the year to a total number of 39.

The effluent from the new works was satisfactory and passed the Thames Conservancy Board's requirements.

The **Lambourn** Scheme of Sewerage progressed during the year. Strenuous efforts were made to obtain Ministerial approval for the extension to Upper Lambourn but without success.

With regard to the Hungerford Scheme, the Thames Conservancy Board showed much concern about the bad effluent which occasionally gains entry to the canal. It has already been stated in previous reports, however, that without major reconstruction, no lasting improvement in the quality of this effluent is possible.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The demand for more frequent refuse collection was again made, but unfortunately, for reasons of economy, cannot be met at present.

The tips at Eastbury and Hungerford were maintained satisfactorily. Periodical inspections were made and rat disinfestation carried out.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Steady progress was again maintained so that at the end of the year the Council had completed a total of 204 houses. Since the end of the war the number of private dwellings completed was 52.

SCHOOLS.

Sanitary arrangements remain below satisfactory standards in the smaller schools.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Joint Committee Scheme continued satisfactorily throughout the year, as the following details show:—

	Total	Business	Others
Premises visited	790	85	705
Rat Infestations treated ...	341	18	325
Mice Infestations treated ...	9	1	8

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Inspections were made during the year of the sanitary arrangements, cleanliness, lighting, etc.

SALE OF FOODSTUFFS.

Advice continued to be given on the handling side, producing perhaps, a slight improvement in conditions.

CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS.

The following were inspected, condemned and voluntarily surrendered during the year:—

Fresh Meat	9lbs. Pork.	37lbs. Bacon.
Tinned Meat	46 Tins Stewed Steak.	
	27 Tins Luncheon Meat.	
	21lbs. Cooked Ham.	
	13 Tins Other Meat.	
Fish	40 Tins of Fish.	
	1 Stone of Kippers.	
Milk	17 Tins.	
Fruit	300 Tins.	

CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS—continued.

Cheeses	24 dozen Boxes.
Butter	$\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Lard	16lbs.
Preserves	1 Tin.
Vegetable	30 Tins.

ICE-CREAM.

There are 27 premises registered for the sale of Ice-Cream. Of 7 samples taken 5 were placed in Grade I and 2 in Grade II.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS.

All applications made to the Ministry of Food for new licences were inspected under the Food and Drugs Act. Establishments were visited and any action necessary, taken.

BAKEHOUSES.

Routine inspections were carried out.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS.

The position remains the same, that is, centralised slaughtering at Newbury and emergency killing only in the 2 Registered ones in this District.

CARAVAN SITES.

A site at Lambourn was licensed under conditions for the stationing of up to 5 caravans, approximate number of residents 12.

RETAIL OF MILK.

Sampling of milk was continued, only one being unsatisfactory, this being a pasteurised milk.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of Dwellings Built:—

1. By Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	26
2. By Private Persons	...	...	...	...	...	7

(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

1. a. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	547
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	648
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	1
3. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	8

(2) Remedy of defects during the year:—

1. Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	8
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(3) Overcrowding.

a. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	42
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

SUMMARY.

Number of Different Premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	798
„ „ Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	941
„ „ Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	247
„ „ Defects or Nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	...	162
„ „ Notices served—Informal	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ Notices served—Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Prosecutions	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Defects or Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	181

BRADFIELD RURAL DISTRICT.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease					Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	27	2	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	51	4	—
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	84	—	7
Measles	...	...	...	...	81	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	32	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	2	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Resp.		Non Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	20	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	35	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35	—	45	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	55	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
55	—	65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals			4	6	1	1	3	1	—	—

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Part I of the Act.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	33	18	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	54	20	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	87	38	—	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	—	—

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

WATER.

Location of Extensions.	Length in Yards
Reading Water Dept.:	
Glebe Road, Purley	27 yards.
Langley Hill, Calcot	123 yards.
Mid-Wessex Water Co.:	
Hatch Lane, Bucklebury	86½ yards.
Southend, Bradfield	274 yards.
Mortimer	2,199 yards.
South Oxfordshire Water & Gas Co.:	
Upper Basildon, Tenaplas Drive	297 yards.
Upper Basildon, Newtown	21 yards.

SAMPLES.

112 samples of water were taken during the year.

101 of these were taken from Purley Park River Estate with the following results:—

53 satisfactory: 48 unsatisfactory.

In May, 1952, the Purley Park River Estate was visited by the acting Medical Officer of Health, with the Sanitary Inspector and representatives of the Estate Tenants' Association. The latter was anxious to institute a more hygienic method of sewage disposal throughout the Estate.

On inspection it was found that a certain number of householders had individual contracts with a local cleansing company to empty their Elsan closets once a week, while others merely tipped the night soil on their gardens and dug it in. Whilst carrying out this inspection it was noticed that the majority of the tenants obtained their water from tubes driven into the ground to tap the sub-soil water. Owing to the number of householders who disposed of their night soil in the garden it was felt that the sub-soil water was probably very polluted. As this was the only water supply to the Estate, several samples were immediately taken. These proved that the water was, in fact, polluted.

The position was reported to the Council and regular sampling was instituted. In the next few months 101 samples of water from this estate were examined in the Public Health Laboratory. 53 of them were reported to be satisfactory while the remaining 48 were unsatisfactory. As soon as it became obvious that a large number of these supplies were going to be unsatisfactory from the bacteriological point of view, a notice was sent to the householders advising them to boil all drinking water.

During the remaining months of the year the very obvious difficulties of providing a wholesome supply of water to this Estate were discussed and various alternative solutions explored.

CAMPING SITES.

Individual licences for the year were issued in respect of 159 caravans.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

The following work was completed during the year:—

Bucklebury, Chapel Row.

Part gravitation system. Serving approximately 72 houses.

Outfall works at Paradise Lane, consisting of sewage tank, automatic electric motor and compressor. Air receiver with 25 gallon ejector and filter bed.

Contractors: Messrs. Collier & Catley Ltd.

Bradfield.

Gravitation system serving approximately 130 houses.

Outfall Works at Mariners Bottom, consisting of sewage tank, petrol driven pumps to pump back sewage for retreatment, and filter bed.

Tilehurst.

Two ejector stations consisting of electric motor, compressor and ejector. Number of houses served approximately 300.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The collection and disposal of refuse and the collection of salvage was carried out satisfactorily during the year.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

During the year 40 inspections of shops were made. In no case was it found necessary to take action in respect of ventilation, temperature or sanitary conveniences.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

- (1) Two houses, other than Council houses, were found to be infested. These were disinfested.
- (2) Cooper's Municipal Insect Spray was used.
- (3) The work is carried out by the Local Authority.
- (4) Premises after disinfestation, are visited at later dates, a spray and solution are left with the tenant with full instructions as to their use.
- (5) No action necessary in this district.

SCHOOLS.—Nil.

MEAT.

Particulars of any legal action taken under the Public Health Acts, 1875 and 1936 or the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924:

One whole pig carcass and the hind quarters of beef were condemned during the year.

INSPECTIONS OF FOOD OTHER THAN MEAT.

Sixty-five inspections of catering establishments were made and a satisfactory standard of cleanliness found.

Twenty-five condemnation certificates were issued in respect of various tinned foods.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS—Nil.

BAKEHOUSES.

Number in District — 14. Inspections made — 14.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. — No change.

MILK.

During 1952, the local authority authorised licences to 14 retailers to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk. Four of these were supplementary.

Licences issued to retailers to sell pasteurised milk within the district were as follows: two dealers and one supplementary.

Seven samples were taken for the phosphatase test. One sample did not comply.

Two samples of tuberculin tested milk were taken. Both were negative.

ICE CREAM.

Number of premises on Register—39. Prepacked ice-cream is sold from 37 premises. Two persons registered for the manufacture of ice-cream have not commenced to manufacture; no samples, therefore, have been taken.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	Total
Total number of properties in local authority's district ...	26	5450	431	446	6353
Number of properties inspected by the local authority in 1952 as a result of					
(a) notification ...	—	278	—	35	—
(b) survey or otherwise	26	579	—	45	—
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats ...	18 major 6 minor	73 major 154 minor	— —	8 major 6 minor	— —
Number of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice ...	—	14	—	2	—
Number of infested properties treated by local authority ...	24	227	—	14	—

HOUSING TABLE.

Number of new dwellinghouses built:

1. By Local Authorities ...	91
2. By private persons ...	77

Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:—

1. a. Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects ...	500
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	700
2. Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	10
3. Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	4

Remedy of Defects during year:—

1. Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action ...	20
--	----

Action under Statutory Powers during year:—

1. Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of statutory notice ...	1
2. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	10
3. Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	6
4. Number of dwellinghouses included in Clearance Orders made by the Local Authority ...	Nil.
5. Number of dwellinghouses included in Clearance Orders confirmed by the Minister of Health ...	Nil.
6. Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Clearance Orders ...	Nil.

Overcrowding:

a.	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
b.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

**SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK
DURING THE YEAR 1952.**

N.B.—Smoke abatement and action under the Housing Acts and Factory and Workshops Acts should not be included in this table. (Bakehouses come under the Factory and Workshops Acts).

Number of different premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	1700
„ „ Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	3000
„ „ Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	70
„ „ Defects and Nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	...	80
„ „ Notices served—Informal	...	...	...	...	...	20
„ „ Notices served—Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ Prosecutions	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Number of Defects or Nuisances abated:

As to Privies, W.Cs, Sink wastes, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
„ Drains and Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	10
„ Pigs or other animals	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
„ Deficient or impure water	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ Unclean houses	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Overcrowded houses	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
„ Polluted ditches, streams, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ Insanitary accumulations or deposits	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ Other defects or nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	10

Number of Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	28
„ „ Water samples taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	...	117
„ „ Wells closed	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ New wells sunk	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Houses connected with water mains	...	...	...	...	...	168
„ „ Water certificates granted (rural districts only)...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ Conservancy closets replaced by W.Cs.	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Canal boats: Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Number on register	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Common Lodging Houses: Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ „ Number on register	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Milkshops: Number on register	...	...	...	...	...	4
Slaughterhouses: Number on register	...	...	...	...	...	4
Milkshops: Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	4
Slaughterhouses: Number of inspections	4
Piggeries: Number of inspections	Nil.

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